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Letter dated 6 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour of bringing the attention of the Security Council to the launches of four ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 6 March 2017 (local time) and enclosing herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on the launches (see annex). I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Cho** Tae-yul
Permanent Representative

17-03646 (E) 080317

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Annex to the letter dated 6 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 6 March 2017

1. Today's ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is another provocation, conducted only 22 days after the ballistic missile launch on 12 February which came after its launches of 24 ballistic missiles last year, constituting a flagrant and clear violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and a grave threat to peace and security on the Korean peninsula and to the international community as a whole. The Government of the Republic of Korea condemns the provocation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the strongest terms.

2. The provocation was conducted in the midst of the international community's shock and anger at the inhumane murder by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of Kim Jong-nam with VX nerve agent, a chemical weapon. This clearly demonstrates the regime's recklessness in that it will continue to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in defiance of the concerted warnings from the international community. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must realize that its repeated provocations and fanatical obsession with nuclear and ballistic missile development will only accelerate its path to isolation and self-destruction.

3. The Government of the Republic of Korea will make the Democratic People's Republic of Korea pay an unbearable price by urging all countries to faithfully implement sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including Security Council resolutions 2270 (2016) and 2321 (2016), along with friendly countries' strong unilateral sanctions. In addition, the Government of the Republic of Korea will unwaveringly protect the lives of its people and the security of the nation, while deterring the nuclear and missile threats of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, based on the strong Republic of Korea-United States combined defence posture by accelerating measures to further strengthen extended deterrence capabilities.